

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical oral dosage unit containing at least 10 µg of an estrogen and at least 10 µg of a steroid selected from the group consisting of 15-hydroxytestosterones, precursors thereof, mixtures thereof and precursors of said mixtures; and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein said oral dosage unit is selected from the group consisting of a tablet, a capsule and a sachet, wherein the precursors of the hydroxytestosterones are derivatives of the hydroxytestosterones wherein a hydrogen atom of at least one hydroxyl group has been substituted by an acyl radical of a hydrocarbon carboxylic, sulfonic or sulfamic acid of 1-25 carbon atoms; tetrahydrofuranyl; tetrahydropyranal; or a straight or branched chain glycosidic residue containing 1-20 glycosidic units per residue, and wherein the pharmaceutical oral dosage unit is orally active.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Cancelled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The pharmaceutical oral dosage unit according to claim 17, wherein the steroid is selected from the group consisting of 15 α -hydroxytestosterone, precursors thereof, mixtures of 15 α -hydroxytestosterone, and precursors of these mixtures of these hydroxytestosterones.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The pharmaceutical oral dosage unit according to claim 17, wherein the steroid is selected from the group consisting of 15 β -hydroxytestosterone, precursors thereof, mixtures of 15 β -hydroxytestosterone, and precursors of these mixtures of these hydroxytestosterones.

Claim 22 (Cancelled).

Claim 23 (Cancelled).

Claim 24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The pharmaceutical oral dosage unit according to claim 17, wherein the oral dosage unit is a tablet.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The pharmaceutical oral dosage unit according to claim 17, wherein the oral dosage unit contains between 20 μ g and 1000 mg of the androgenic steroid.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The pharmaceutical oral dosage unit according to claim 17, wherein the oral dosage unit additionally contains at least 10 μ g of a progestogen and/or at least 10 μ g of an estrogen.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A method of hormone replacement therapy ~~therapeutically treating androgen deficiency in a~~ female mammal, said method comprising oral administration to said mammal of the oral dosage unit according to claim 17.

Claim 29 (Cancelled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein the method comprises the administration of the steroid in an average daily amount in the range of 0.5 μ g to 1.5 mg per kg of bodyweight.

Claim 31 (Cancelled).

Claim 32 (New): A method of contraception in a female mammal, said method comprising oral administration to said mammal of the oral dosage unit according to claim 17.

Claim 33 (New): The method according to claim 32, wherein the method comprises the administration of the steroid in an average daily amount in the range of 0.5 μ g to 1.5 mg per kg of bodyweight.